

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed October 7, 2005.

In the Office Action, Applicant's Claims 18, 19, 34 and 42 were indicated to be allowable if amended to be in independent form including all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indicated allowability of these claims.

In the Office Action, Applicant's Claims 8, 9, 20-33, 35, 40, 41, and 43 were rejected as obvious over the combination of Hashimoto (U.S. Pat. No. 6,338,020) and Seibel (U.S. Pat. No. 6,484,092), Applicant's Claims 8-10, 14-17, 20-33, 35-41, and 43-46 were rejected as obvious over the combination of Liu (U.S. Pat. No. 6,400,690) and Hashimoto, and Applicant's Claims 11-13 were rejected as obvious over the combination of Liu, Hashimoto, and Pu (U.S. Pat. No. 6,292,743). At least for the reasons explained below, Applicant's Claims 8-17, 20-33, 35-41, and 43-46 distinguish these references. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

I. Applicant's Claims 8, 9, 20-33, 35, 40, 41, and 43 are not obvious over the combination of Hashimoto and Seibel.

A. Seibel is not prior art to the present application.

Applicant's Claims 8, 9, 20-33, 35, 40, 41, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over the combination of Hashimoto and Seibel. Accompanying this response is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 by the inventor Lawrence Kaplan, establishing that the subject matter of these claims was invented prior to the filing date of the Seibel patent. Accordingly, the Seibel patent is not prior to the present application. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection of Claims 8, 9, 20-33, 35, 40, 41, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over the combination of Hashimoto and Seibel be withdrawn.

B. Applicant's claims are not obvious over the combination of Hashimoto and Seibel

Even if the Seibel patent were available as prior art, the combination of Hashimoto and Seibel fails to disclose all the limitations of the present application, as explained below.

Applicant's Claim 8

Applicant's Claim 8 is an independent claim that relates to a method of operation for an end user's computing device to provide navigation-related services. According to Applicant's Claim 8, a wireless communications link is established with a remotely located navigation services provider using the end user's computing device. Then, Applicant's Claim 8 further recites the step of "*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*" from the "*remotely located navigation services provider*." The wireless navigation services coverage data indicates areas in which navigation-related data from the navigation services provider are "*unavailable wirelessly*."

Applicant's Claim 8 is not obvious over the combination of Hashimoto and Seibel because all the limitations of this claim are not disclosed by this combination of references. Specifically, the combination of Hashimoto and Seibel fails to disclose the step of "*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*" from the "*remotely located navigation services provider*", as recited in the claim.

First, as explained in Amendment C filed on June 30, 2005 and acknowledged in the Office Action (page 3), Hashimoto does not disclose "*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*." Instead, Hashimoto discloses a system for acquiring map information of a blind area, wherein acquiring data for the blind area is based on specifying data. In the Hashimoto system, the "data" that specifies the "blind area" is not obtained from a "*remotely located navigation services provider*", but instead is "already stored" or "previously stored" in the memory 18 or 18c of the vehicle. (See, Hashimoto: column 3, lines 32-61 and column 3, lines 60-61). Thus, Hashimoto completely fails to disclose or suggest the step in Applicant's Claim 8 of "*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*" from the "*remotely located navigation services provider*."

Second, the Office Action relied on Seibel for disclosing "*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*." (See, Office Action, page 3). However, Seibel also

has no teaching or disclosure relating to “*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*” from a “*remotely located navigation services provider*.” Rather, Seibel discloses a method and system for calculating routes based on dynamic condition information, wherein the information includes weather, traffic congestion and road congestion. According to Seibel, the dynamic condition information retrieved from the database is used as a “weighting function” by the navigation system when determining a route (*See*, Seibel: column 4, lines 14 - 17). For example, the Seibel system presents alternate routing solutions to the user when the dynamic condition information suggests a delay in the default routing . Although, Seibel does disclose downloading information to the user, the Seibel system does not disclose “*wireless navigation services coverage data*.” Rather, the Seibel system merely uses the downloaded information for routing. Thus, Seibel completely fails to disclose “*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*” from the “*remotely located navigation services provider*.”

Therefore, at least for these reasons, Applicant’s Claim 8 is not obvious in view of the combination Hashimoto and Seibel. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 8 be withdrawn.

Applicant’s Claim 9

Applicant’s Claim 9 is an independent claim that relates to a method of operation for an end user’s computing device to provide navigation-related services. According to Applicant’s Claim 9, a wireless communications link is established with a remotely located navigation services provider using the end user’s computing device. Then, Applicant’s Claim 9 further recites the step of “*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*” from the “*remotely located navigation services provider*.” The wireless navigation services coverage data indicates areas in which navigation-related data from the navigation services provider are “*available wirelessly*.”

Applicant’s Claim 9 is not obvious in view of the combination of Hashimoto and Seibel for at least two reasons.

First, as discussed in connection with Claim 8, Hashimoto and Seibel fail to disclose the step of “*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*” from the “*remotely located navigation services provider*”, as recited in Claim 9.

Additionally, Hashimoto and Seibel also fail to disclose the limitations of Applicant's Claim 9, wherein "*wireless navigation services coverage data*" that indicates "*areas in which navigation-related data*" from the "*navigation services provider*" are "*available wirelessly.*" Accordingly, even if Hashimoto and Seibel were combined, the resultant combination would not disclose these missing limitations. For either of the above two reasons, Applicant's Claim 9 is not obvious in view of the combination of Hashimoto and Seibel. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 9 be withdrawn.

Applicant's Claim 20

Applicant's Claim 20 is an independent claim that relates to a method of operation for a computing device to provide navigation-related services. According to Applicant's Claim 20, the computing device establishes a wireless communications link with a remotely located navigation services provider while the computing device is located in a first area where navigation-related data are "*available wirelessly*" from the remotely located navigation services provider. Then, Applicant's Claim 20 recites the step of "*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*" from the "*remotely located navigation services provider.*" The wireless navigation services coverage data indicates areas in which navigation-related data from the navigation services provider are "*unavailable wirelessly.*" Next, Applicant's Claim 20 recites the step of downloading navigation-related data for a second area located outside said first area prior to leaving said first area. According to Applicant's Claim 20, the "*navigation-related data*" are "*not available wirelessly from the remotely located navigation services provider*" in the "*second area.*"

As discussed in connection with Claim 8, Hashimoto and Seibel fail to disclose the step of "*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*" from the "*remotely located navigation services provider*", as recited in Claim 20. Because Hashimoto and Seibel do not disclose the step of Applicant's Claim 20 of "*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*" from the "*remotely located navigation services provider*", Applicant's Claim 20 is not obvious in view of the combination of Hashimoto and Seibel. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 20 be withdrawn.

Applicant's Claim 24

Applicant's Claim 24 is an independent claim that relates to a mobile device that provides navigation-related services to an end user. According to Applicant's Claim 24, the mobile device includes a processor to wirelessly download and store in a memory "*wireless coverage data to identify a wireless coverage area*" and geographic data to provide navigation services.

As discussed in connection with Claim 8, Applicant's Claim 24 is not obvious in view of the combination of Hashimoto and Seibel because the combination of references does not disclose a processor that wirelessly downloads and stores "*wireless coverage data to identify a wireless coverage area*", as recited in Applicant's Claim 24. Accordingly, Applicant's Claim 24 is not obvious in view of the combination of Hashimoto and Seibel. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 24 be withdrawn.

Applicant's Claim 28

Applicant's Claim 28 is an independent claim that relates to a method of wireless end user navigation. Applicant's Claim 28 recites the step of traveling to a destination and then "*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*" from a "*remotely located navigation services provider*." The wireless navigation services coverage data indicates areas in which navigation-related data from the navigation services provider are "*unavailable wirelessly*." Next, Applicant's Claim 28 recites wirelessly downloading and storing sufficient navigation-related geographic data for uncovered wireless coverage areas through which the end user is expected to travel before the end user is expected to travel beyond a wireless coverage area.

As discussed in connection with Claim 8, Hashimoto and Seibel fail to disclose the step of "*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*" from the "*remotely located navigation services provider*", as recited in Claim 28. Because Hashimoto and Seibel do not disclose the step of Applicant's Claim 28 of "*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*" from the "*remotely located navigation services provider*",

Applicant's Claim 28 is not obvious in view of the combination of Hashimoto and Seibel. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 28 be withdrawn.

Applicant's Claims 21-23, 25-27, 29-33, 40, 41, and 43

Applicant's Claim 21-23, 25-27, 29-33, 40, 41, and 43 are dependent claims that distinguish the combination of Hashimoto and Seibel at least for the same reasons as their respective independent base claims. Further, these claims include additional limitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Hashimoto and Seibel, taken alone or in proper combination.

II. Applicant's Claims 8-10, 14-17, 20-33, 35-41, and 43-46 are not obvious over the combination of Liu and Hashimoto.

Applicant's Claim 8

In the Office Action, Applicant's independent Claim 8 was rejected as obvious over the combination of Liu and Hashimoto. In the Office Action, it was acknowledged that Liu did not disclose the downloading of "*navigation-related data*", as recited in Applicant's Claim 8. However, the position was taken in the Office Action that it would have been obvious to combine Liu with Hashimoto to show the features of Applicant's Claim 8.

Applicant's Claim 8 is not obvious over the combination of Liu and Hashimoto because even if these two references were combined, the resultant combination would fail to show all the claim limitations. Specifically, the combination of Liu and Hashimoto would fail to disclose the step of "*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*" from the "*remotely located navigation services provider*" as recited in Applicant's Claim 8.

Liu relates to wireless communications coverage and not navigation data coverage. Liu discloses forming a map that indicates areas in which wireless communications coverage, e.g., cell phone coverage, exists (*See*, Liu: column 1, lines 6-12). Wireless communication coverage is not the same as or analogous to wireless navigation services coverage. For example, wireless navigation services coverage may extend beyond wireless communications coverage, or wireless navigation services

coverage may not be available where wireless communication coverage is available, or vice versa. Rather than obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data, Liu discloses updating the wireless communication coverage map. Liu then transmits the updated wireless communications coverage map to the vehicle. (*See*, Liu: column 5, lines 59-64). Thus, even if Liu and Hashimoto were combined, the resultant combination would fail to disclose the step of “*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*” from a “*remotely located navigation services provider*”, as recited in Applicant’s Claim 8. At least for this reason, Applicant’s Claim 8 is not obvious over this combination of references. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 8 be withdrawn.

Applicant’s Claim 9

In the Office Action, Applicant’s independent Claim 9 was rejected as obvious over the combination of Liu and Hashimoto. Applicant’s Claim 9 is not obvious over the combination of Liu and Hashimoto for similar reasons as Claim 8. Specifically, Applicant’s Claim 9 is not obvious over the combination of Liu and Hashimoto because even if Liu and Hashimoto were combined, the resultant combination would fail to disclose the step of “*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*” from the “*remotely located navigation services provider*” as recited in Applicant’s Claim 9. As explained above in connection with Claim 8, Hashimoto fails to disclose the step of “*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*” from a “*remotely located navigation services provider*.” Instead, Hashimoto discloses that the “specifying data of a blind area” is “already stored” in the memory 18 or 18c of the vehicle. Liu relates to communications coverage (e.g., cell phone coverage) and not navigation data coverage. Thus, even if Liu and Hashimoto were combined, the resultant combination would fail to disclose the step of “*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*” from a “*remotely located navigation services provider*”, as recited in Applicant’s Claim 9. Therefore, Applicant’s Claim 9 is not obvious over this combination of references.

Additionally, Liu and Hashimoto also fail to disclose “*wireless navigation services coverage data*” that indicates “*areas in which navigation-related data*” from the “*navigation services provider*” are “*available wirelessly*”, as recited in Applicant’s Claim 9. Thus, even if Liu and Hashimoto were combined, the result would fail to

disclose “*wireless navigation services coverage data*” that indicates “*areas in which navigation-related data*” from the “*navigation services provider*” are “*available wirelessly*”, as recited in Applicant’s Claim 9. Therefore, for this additional reason, Applicant’s Claim 9 is not obvious over this combination of references. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 9 be withdrawn.

Applicant’s Claim 20

In the Office Action, Applicant’s independent Claim 20 was rejected as obvious over the combination of Liu and Hashimoto. Applicant’s Claim 20 is not obvious over this combination of references for similar reasons as Claim 8. Specifically, Applicant’s Claim 20 is not obvious over the combination of Liu and Hashimoto because even if Liu and Hashimoto were combined, the resulting combination would fail to disclose the step of “*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*” from the “*remotely located navigation services provider*” as recited in Applicant’s Claim 20. Therefore, Applicant’s Claim 20 is not obvious over this combination of references. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 20 be withdrawn.

Applicant’s Claim 24

In the Office Action, Applicant’s independent Claim 24 was rejected as obvious over the combination of Liu and Hashimoto. Applicant’s Claim 24 is not obvious over this combination of references for similar reasons as Claim 8. Specifically, Applicant’s Claim 24 is not obvious over the combination of Liu and Hashimoto because even if Liu and Hashimoto were combined, the resulting combination would fail to disclose a “*processor*” that “*wirelessly downloads*” and “*stores*” “*wireless coverage data to identify a wireless coverage area*”, as recited in Applicant’s Claim 24. At least for this reason, Applicant’s Claim 24 is not obvious over this combination of references.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 24 be withdrawn.

Applicant’s Claim 28

In the Office Action, Applicant’s independent Claim 28 was rejected as obvious over the combination of Liu and Hashimoto. Applicant’s Claim 28 is not obvious over this combination of references for similar reasons as Claim 8. Even if Liu and Hashimoto

were combined, the resultant would fail to disclose the step of “*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*” from a “*remotely located navigation services provider*”, as recited in Applicant’s Claim 28. At least for this reason, Applicant’s Claim 28 is not obvious over this combination of references. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 28 be withdrawn.

Applicant’s Claims 10, 14-17, 21-23, 25-27, 29-33, 35-41, and 43

Applicant’s Claim 10, 14-17, 21-23, 25-27, 29-33, 35-41, and 43 are dependent claims that distinguish the combination of Liu and Hashimoto at least for the same reasons as their respective independent base claims. Further, these claims include additional limitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Liu and Hashimoto, taken alone or in proper combination.

III. Applicant’s Claims 11-13 are not obvious over the combination of Liu, Hashimoto and Pu

In the Office Action, Applicant’s dependent Claims 11-13 were rejected as obvious over the combination of Liu, Hashimoto and Pu.

Pu relates to a navigation system in which routes are calculated on a centralized server and data that indicate the routes are transmitted to end users’ navigation systems (See, Pu: column 7, lines 50-53 and column 7, lines 45-46). According to Pu, the routes are described using “natural language” (See, Pu: column 7, line 60-column 8, line 39).

Applicant’s Claims 11-13 are dependent claims that depend indirectly from independent base Claim 8 or 9 and accordingly Applicant’s Claims 11-13 are deemed to include all the limitations of these base claims. As explained above, Applicant’s Claims 8 and 9 distinguish the combination of Liu and Hashimoto. With respect to Pu, Pu does not have any disclosure about “*obtaining wireless navigation services coverage data*” that indicate areas where “*navigation-related data*” from the “*navigation services provider*” are “*unavailable wirelessly*” or “*available wirelessly*. ” Accordingly, even if Liu, Hashimoto and Pu were combined, the resultant combination would not disclose these missing limitations. Therefore, all the limitations of Applicant’s Claims 11-13 are

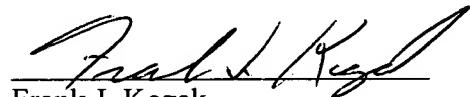
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not disclosed by Liu, Hashimoto and Pu and thus Applicant's Claims 11-13 are not obvious over this combination of references.

IV. Conclusion

All the issues in the Office Action dated October 7, 2005 have been addressed. Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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